

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

### 1. (Previously Presented)

A highly filled elastomeric composition comprising an elastomeric resin, a filler of about 15% to about 500% by weight of the resin, and 1 to 400% by weight of resin of microsilica as a modifier to improve the processability, wherein the microsilica is particulate amorphous  $\text{SiO}_2$  obtained from a process in which silica is reduced to  $\text{SiO}$ -gas and oxidized in vapor phase to form amorphous silica which contains at least 70% by weight silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) and has a specific density of 2.1 - 2.3  $\text{g/cm}^3$  and a surface area of 15 - 40  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , and has primary particles being substantially spherical with an average size of about 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

### 2. (Previously Presented)

The elastomeric composition according to claim 1, wherein said composition contains 5 to 300% by weight of resin of microsilica.

### 3. (Previously Presented)

The elastomeric composition according to claim 2, wherein said composition contains 10 to 150% by weight

resin of microsilica.

4. (Previously Presented)

A method for production of a highly filled elastomeric compound comprising:

forming a highly filled elastomeric compound from an elastomeric resin and a filler about 15% to about 500% by weight of the resin; and

adding microsilica to the highly filled elastomeric compound in an amount of 1 to 400% by weight of resin as a modifier to improve processability, wherein the microsilica is particulate amorphous  $\text{SiO}_2$  obtained from a process in which silica is reduced to  $\text{SiO}$ -gas and oxidized in vapor phase to form amorphous silica which contains at least 70% by weight silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) and has a specific density of 2.1 - 2.3 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and a surface area of 15 - 40 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and has primary particles being substantially spherical with an average size of about 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claims 4, wherein microsilica is added to the highly filled elastomeric compound in an amount of 5 to 300% by weight of resin.

6. (Previously Presented)

The method according to claims 4, wherein microsilica is added to the highly filled elastomeric compound in an amount of 10 to 150% by weight of resin.

7. (Previously Presented)

A method of using microsilica as a modifier to improve processability of a highly filled elastomeric compound having a filler content of about 15% to about 500% by weight of resin, comprising a step of adding 1 to 400% by weight of resin of microsilica to said compound, wherein the microsilica is particulate amorphous  $\text{SiO}_2$  obtained from a process in which silica is reduced to  $\text{SiO}$ -gas and oxidized in vapor phase to form amorphous silica, which contains at least 70% by weight silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) and has a specific density of 2.1 - 2.3  $\text{g/cm}^3$  and a surface area of 15 - 40  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , and has primary particles being substantially spherical with an average size of about 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. (Cancelled)